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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
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Production Of 18 Out Of 22 Important Kinds Of Vegetable Seeds
May Be Larger Than In 1943, But Many Below March Expectations

Production of 18 out of 22 kinds of vegetable seeds was indicated in September to be larger this year than last. The kinds with the largest increases are cabbage (611 percent of 1943), rutabaga (359%), turnip (316%), garden beet (251%), cauliflower (194%), onion (187%), heading lettuce (182%), mangelwurzel (179%), loose-leaf lettuce (167%), and winter squash (162%). Production of only 4 kinds—spinach (54% of 1943), wrinkled peas (76%), tomato (85%), and romaine lettuce (88%)—is indicated to be smaller this year than last.

The increase in production this year is attributed chiefly to larger acreages, but yields per acre of a majority of these seeds are expected to be larger than in 1943. The kinds with the largest increases in acreage over last year are rutabaga (471% of 1943), cabbage (455%), turnip (228%), Swiss chard (186%), garden beet (181%), hybrid sweetcorn (170%), cauliflower (165%), winter squash (150%), open-pollinated sweetcorn (148%), and onion (146%). The acreage is smaller this year than last for only 5 kinds—spinach (60% of 1943), wrinkled peas (79%), tomato (92%), dwarf green beans (94%), and romaine lettuce (98%).

As was the case last year, smaller acreages have been and are being harvested than were indicated in March, when many seeds had not been planted and acreage figures reported in a number of instances represented intentions to plant or harvest. Furthermore, some abandonment of acreage through unfavorable weather, insects, or labor conditions occurred this year. Only in the cases of hybrid and open-pollinated sweetcorn, loose-leaf lettuce, and summer and winter squash are larger acreages now indicated than in March. The kinds which showed the greatest reductions in acreage from the March intentions are romaine lettuce, dwarf green beans, Swiss chard, rutabaga, cucumber, turnip, radish, and tomato.

Growers producing 90 percent or more of each of 17 kinds of vegetable seeds submitted reports in the September inquiry. The 5 kinds for which reports are less complete are tomato, turnip, cucumber, spinach, and cauliflower. Some changes in the July and September inquiry indications, shown in the accompanying table, are attributed to the fact that a number of firms reporting in the latter inquiry did not report in the July inquiry. Other changes are due to a re-appraisal of crops by growers. Final production figures, after cleaning operations have been completed, should be approximately the same as those given in the last column of the accompanying table for all but a few seeds.

(Over)

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ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION OF 22 VEGETABLE-SEED CROPS

Kind of Seed	Acreage		Production	
	1943	1944	1943	1944
	: March	: July	: March	: July
: survey	: survey	: survey	: survey	: survey
			1,000	1,000
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Dwarf green beans	64,806	74,677	--	60,620
Garden beet	3,947	7,942	7,561	7,130
Mangelwurzel	825	1,322	1,203	1,192
Cabbage	1,096	5,589	5,192	4,991
Carrot	9,687	12,730	11,724	11,934
Cauliflower	224	383	375	370
Swiss chard	303	700	584	565
Hybrid sweetcorn	6,750	10,428	--	11,499
Open poll. sweetcorn	6,560	9,025	--	9,706
Cucumber	5,356	8,408	--	6,940
Heading lettuce	3,250	4,565	4,382	4,409
Loose-leaf "	1,435	1,910	2,023	1,989
Romaine "	199	290	221	196
Onion	6,165	9,816	8,844	8,988
Wrinkled peas	132,238	111,232	141,153	104,649
Radish	6,290	10,826	9,538	9,064
Spinach	8,639	5,018	4,862	4,834
Summer squash	2,551	2,414	--	3,024
Winter "	2,080	2,921	--	3,123
Tomato	11,757	12,881	--	10,872
Turnip	3,003	8,217	7,026	6,855
Rutabaga	502	2,924	2,146	2,364

1/ This quantity includes approximately 100,000 pounds of seed produced from fields of cabbage grown in California for processing and shipping.